

US Patent Application No. 10/713,837
Second Reply to Final Office Action of August 23, 2005
Customer No. 27683

Attorney Docket No. 31132.189

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this Application.

1-3, 5-8, 10-20. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously amended) [The method of claim 3,] A method of surgery comprising:
forming concave surfaces in endplates of confronting vertebral bodies;
inserting between the formed concave surfaces an intervertebral disc endoprosthesis
wherein the intervertebral disc endoprosthesis comprises: L-shaped supports wherein each of the
L-shaped support comprises an exterior convex surface adapted to mate with one of the formed
concave surfaces; and a resilient body interposed between the L-shaped supports; and
implanting at least one anchor in at least one of the confronting vertebral bodies, wherein
the implanting is located in an anterior surface of the at least one of the confronting vertebral
bodies.

9. (Previously amended) [The method of claim 7, further comprising] A method of
surgery comprising:
implanting at least one anchor in an anterior surface of at least one of confronting
vertebral bodies;
removing damaged disc material;
forming concave surfaces in the endplates of the confronting vertebral bodies; and
inserting between the formed concave surfaces an intervertebral disc endoprosthesis
comprising: confronting supports, each support having an exterior convex surface adapted to
mate with one of the formed concave surfaces; and a resilient body interposed between the
supports.

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21. (Previously Presented) A method of surgery comprising:
forming partially hemispherical surfaces in endplates of confronting vertebral bodies; and
inserting between the formed partially hemispherical surfaces an intervertebral disc
prosthesis comprising confronting supports, each support having a partially hemispherical
exterior surface adapted to mate with one of the formed partially hemispherical surfaces, wherein
the supports are capable of movement relative to each other after the prosthesis has been inserted
between the formed partially hemispherical surfaces.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of surgery according to claim 21, wherein the
partially hemispherical surfaces are formed using a milling jig.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of surgery according to claim 21, further
comprising:
prior to forming the partially hemispherical surfaces in the vertebral body endplates,
implanting at least one anchor into a hole having a predetermined position in an anterior surface
of at least one of the confronting vertebral bodies; and
affixing a bone surface milling mechanism to the at least one anchor.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for inserting an intervertebral disc prosthesis
having a first and second surface, the method comprising:
forming a first indentation in a first endplate of a first vertebral body, the first indentation
having a middle portion and a circumferential rim such that the middle portion is deeper into the
first vertebral body than any part of the circumferential rim;
fixedly mating the first surface to the first indentation of the first endplate of the first
vertebral body, the first surface having a shape that conforms to the first indentation; and
fixedly mating the second surface to a second vertebral body.

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25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the first indentation is formed by attaching a milling jig to either the first or second vertebral body and milling the first indentation.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the first indentation is concave about multiple planes and the first surface of the intervertebral disc prosthesis has a convex shape.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the first and second surface are capable of relative movement after being mated to the first and second vertebral bodies, respectively.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising: forming a second indentation in a second endplate of the second vertebral body, the second indentation having a middle portion and a circumferential rim such that the middle portion is deeper into the second vertebral body than any part of the circumferential rim.

29. (Previously Presented) A method of surgery comprising: forming a first surface in an endplate of a first vertebral body, the first surface being arcuate in multiple planes; inserting a motion-preserving disc prosthesis into an intervertebral space adjacent to the formed first arcuate surface; and positioning a first portion of the inserted prosthesis against the formed first surface of the first vertebral body, wherein the first portion has an exterior configuration adapted to mate with the formed first surface.

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30. (Previously Presented) The method of surgery of claim 29 further comprising:
forming a second arcuate surface in an endplate of a second vertebral body opposing the
first vertebral body; and
positioning a second portion of the inserted prosthesis against the formed second arcuate
surface of the second vertebral body, wherein the second portion has an exterior configuration
adapted to mate with the formed second arcuate surface.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of surgery of claim 30 further comprising:
attaching a milling jig to at least one of the first and second vertebral bodies for milling
the arcuate surfaces in the endplates of the first and second vertebral bodies.

32. (Cancelled) A method of surgery comprising:
attaching a milling jig to a vertebral body;
milling an endplate of the vertebral body to a relatively shallow thickness as compared to
an overall thickness of the vertebral body; and
positioning a motion-preserving implant into a disc space adjacent the milled endplate,
the implant have a surface that conforms to the milled endplate.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of surgery comprising:
attaching a milling jig to a vertebral body;
milling an endplate of the vertebral body to a relatively shallow thickness as compared to
an overall thickness of the vertebral body, with a convex shape of the milled endplate having a
depth less than its width; and
positioning a motion-preserving implant into a disc space adjacent the milled endplate,
the implant have a surface that conforms to the milled endplate.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the shape is convex about

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multiple planes.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of surgery comprising:

(a) forming concave surfaces in the endplates of confronting vertebral bodies, and

(b) inserting between the formed concave surfaces an intervertebral disc endoprosthesis,

comprising:

(1) confronting concaval-convex supports, each support having an exterior convex surface adapted to mate with one of the formed concave surfaces, and

(2) a resilient body element interposed between the concaval-convex supports.

36. (Previously Presented) A method of endoprosthetic discectomy surgery

comprising:

receiving information about the size, shape and nature of a patient's involved natural spinal vertebral bodies and natural spinal vertebral discs from [known] imaging devices,

removing at least the involved, damaged natural spinal disc material from the patient's spine,

forming concave surfaces in adjacent spinal vertebral bodies, the concave surfaces being concave about multiple planes, and

implanting an intervertebral disc endoprosthesis comprising a resilient disc body and concaval-convex elements at least partly surrounding the resilient disc body in the patient's spine.